



소아 손상통제소생술

김중헌 · 고유라 · 정경원¹

아주대학교 의과대학 응급의학교실, ¹외과학교실 외상외과

Damage control resuscitation in children

Jung Heon Kim, Yura Ko, Kyoungwon Jung¹

Department of Emergency Medicine and ¹Division of Trauma Surgery, Department of Surgery, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, Korea

Damage control resuscitation is a relatively new resuscitative strategy for patients with severe traumatic hemorrhage. This strategy consists of permissive hypotension and early balanced transfusion, and transfers the patients to subsequent surgery. There is growing evidence on harms of excessive fluids. Since 2013, survival benefit of massive transfusion protocol has been proven in adults. Despite insufficient evidence, pediatric massive transfusion protocols are widely used in North American trauma centers. This review focuses on the concept of damage control resuscitation, and summarizes the relevant pediatric evidence.

Key words: Blood Coagulation Disorders; Blood Transfusion; Child; Emergency Medicine; Hemostasis; Hypotension, Controlled; Resuscitation; Wounds and Injuries

Introduction

Damage control resuscitation (DCR) is a resuscitative strategy for patients with severe traumatic hemorrhage to transfer them to subsequent surgery (Fig. 1). Recently, this strategy has been used as a standard therapeutic plan for severe traumatic hemorrhage in the U.S. and

European countries¹⁻³. Massive transfusion protocol (MTP) improves survival and hemostasis in adults. In children, efficacy of MTP remains a topic to debate. However, as of 2016, 92% of North American trauma centers were running a pediatric massive transfusion protocol (P-MTP) as a specific method of DCR⁴. This review focuses on the concept of DCR, and summarizes the relevant pediatric evidence.

Main subject

1. Concept of DCR

DCR, also known as hemostatic resuscitation, consists of permissive hypotension and early balanced transfusion. With these 2 key components, we can transfer patients with severe traumatic

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Corresponding author

Kyoungwon Jung (ORCID 0000-0001-7895-0362)
Division of Trauma Surgery, Department of Surgery, Ajou University School of Medicine, 164 World cup-ro, Yeongtong-gu, Suwon 16499, Korea
Tel: +82-31-219-4452 Fax: +82-31-219-7765
E-mail: jake98@daum.net

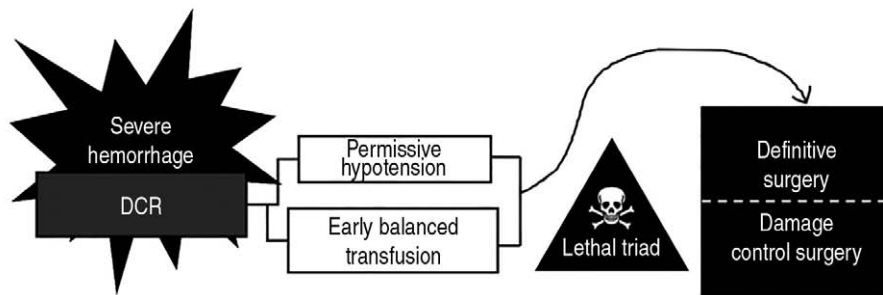


Fig. 1. A schematic diagram depicting the concept of DCR (hemostatic resuscitation) consisting of permissive hypotension and early balanced transfusion. It aims to transfer patients with severe traumatic hemorrhage to damage control surgery (or definitive surgery if appropriate) while bypassing or minimizing the lethal triad. As per this concept, such patients need judicious fluid therapy and early empirical transfusion with sufficient amount and balance. DCR: damage control resuscitation.

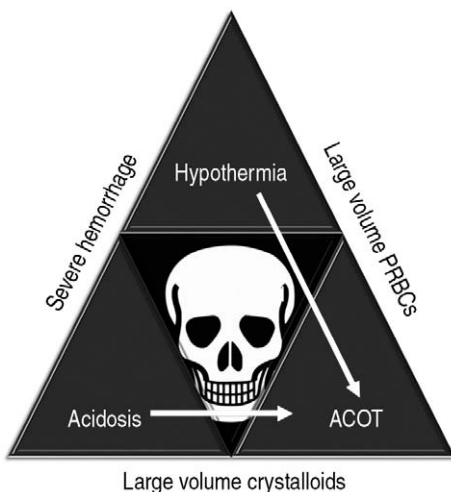


Fig. 2. The lethal triad of severe traumatic hemorrhage. This triangle acts as an obstacle to safe transfer to surgery by increasing mortality, particularly by ACOT. PRBC: packed red blood cell, ACOT: acute coagulopathy of trauma.

hemorrhage alive to subsequent surgery while minimizing the lethal triad (Fig. 1, 2). This concept suggests that such patients need relatively small volume of fluids and early transfusion with pre-defined amount and balance (Fig. 3). Of note, children have several anatomic and physiologic features to be considered when applying DCR (Table 1)⁵.

The origin of DCR goes back to 1993 when Rotondo et al.⁶ reported a survival benefit of the “damage control surgery.” This landmark study performed on 22 critically injured adults shows a higher survival rate in those who underwent damage control surgery compared to those who

underwent definitive surgery (10 of the 13 adults vs. 1 of the 9 adults, $P < 0.02$). The surgical concept consists of 3 steps: (1) limited operations including control of bleeding and contamination, followed by packing and temporary closure of the abdomen (sometimes, “open abdomen”); (2) resuscitation at intensive care units; and (3) definitive surgery^{7,8}.

2. Permissive hypotension

1) Concept

Permissive hypotension, also known as hypotensive or controlled resuscitation, means a judicious fluid therapy to maintain systolic blood pressure slightly lower than age-adjusted low normal limits ($70 + 2 \times \text{age}$ in years mmHg). In adults, an arbitrary goal of systolic blood pressure may be 80–90 mmHg (in severe traumatic brain injury [TBI], 90–95 mmHg)⁹. Permissive hypotension is against a tenet of fluid therapy indicating the need for crystalloids 3 times the estimated blood loss (i.e., 3:1 rule) and 3 crystalloid boluses of 20 mL/kg (Fig. 3).

2) Theoretical harms of excessive fluids

Excessive fluids are potentially harmful to children in several ways^{10–12}. First, increased hydrostatic pressure can dislodge clots, worsening hemorrhage. Second, dilution of coagulation factors and hypothermia can incur acute coagulopathy of trauma (ACOT) (Fig. 2). Third, cellular swelling leads to activation of inflammatory cytokines, resulting in end-organ injuries (e.g., abdominal

compartment syndrome). Such harms had been supported mainly by animal studies¹³.

3) Evidence for permissive hypotension

Excessive fluids should be avoided in children with severe hemorrhage. Recently, 3 adult systematic reviews show the lack of survival benefit of aggressive fluid therapy compared to permissive hypotension¹⁴⁻¹⁶. Harms of excessive fluids in children were suggested in a study performed on 907 children aged 14 years or younger who underwent transfusion at the U.S. military hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan¹⁶. This study shows the association between large volume of crystalloids and increased length of stays at the intensive care units. In addition, large volume of crystalloids in the first 24 hours was

associated with a higher mortality (18% [> 150 mL/kg] vs. 10% [≤ 150 mL/kg], $P = 0.011$)¹⁷. This evidence against excessive fluids is consistent with the deleted description of 3 crystalloid boluses in the tenth edition of the Advanced Trauma Life Support (Table 2)^{18,19}.

4) Caveats for pediatric application

Severe TBI is the most common cause of death in childhood injury. In severe TBI, cerebral perfusion pressure (mean arterial pressure - intracranial pressure) should be kept at 50 mmHg or higher to minimize secondary brain injury²⁰. Caution is needed when applying the concept of permissive hypotension to children with severe TBI. Penetrating torso injury (e.g., gunshot wounds), which is subject to

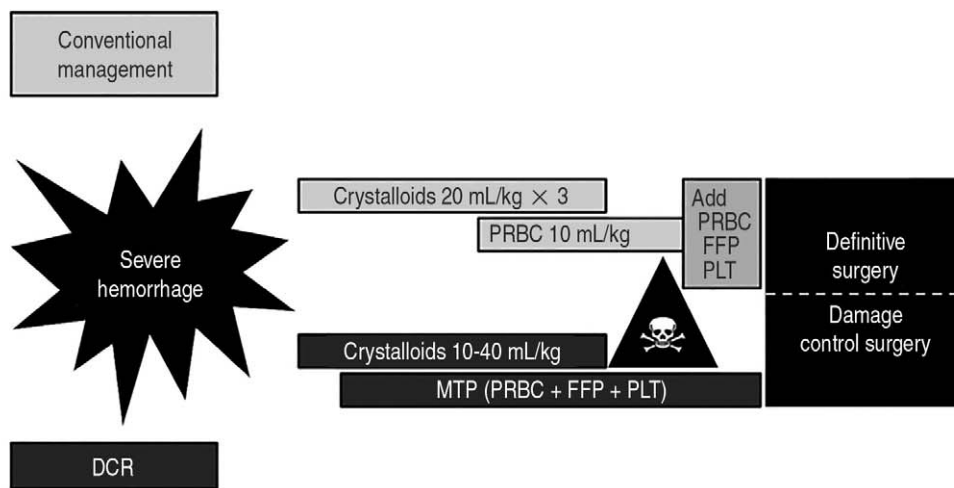


Fig. 3. DCR differs from the traditional 3 crystalloid boluses followed by PRBC infusion and/or additional transfusion. DCR: damage control resuscitation, PRBC: packed red blood cell, FFP: fresh frozen plasma, PLT: platelet, MTP: massive transfusion protocol.

Table 1. Anatomic and physiologic features of children relevant to application of damage control resuscitation

Feature	Description
Cause of death	Traumatic brain injury is more common than hemorrhage.
Hypotensive shock	Infants have a larger blood volume per weight (80 mL/kg; c.f., 70 mL/kg in older children and adults). Due to the robust catecholamine-induced compensations against hypovolemic shock, hypotension does not manifest until blood loss exceeds 45% of blood volume.
Coagulation profiles	Until 6 months of life, infants have lower concentration of coagulation factors, and quantitatively normal but less functional platelets ⁹ .
Mechanism and severity of injury	Mostly minor (e.g., fall and contusion)

Table 2. Recent changes in the Advanced Trauma Life Support reflecting the implications of damage control resuscitation^(8,19)

Topic	Ninth edition (2012)	Tenth edition (2018)
Usual dose of crystalloids	"1-2 L for adults and 20 mL/kg for pediatric patients"	"1 L for adults and 20 mL/kg for pediatric patients"
No. of crystalloid bolus	"It may be necessary to give 3 boluses of 20 mL/kg."	Removed
Harms of excessive fluids	"Excessive fluid administration can exacerbate the lethal triad."	"Administering excessive crystalloid solution can be harmful."
Permissive hypotension	"Balancing the goal of organ perfusion with the risks of rebleeding by accepting a lower-than-normal BP has been termed <i>permissive hypotension</i> ."	"Balancing the goal of organ perfusion with the avoidance of rebleeding by accepting a lower-than-normal BP has been termed <i>permissive hypotension</i> ."
Early balanced transfusion	"Once blood product administration is begun, consideration should be given to the need for <i>additional products</i> such as FFP/PLT."	"There had been movement in pediatric trauma centers in the U.S. toward <i>crystalloid restrictive balanced blood product resuscitation strategies</i> in children with evidence of hemorrhagic shock, although published studies supporting this approach are lacking at the time of this publication."
Timing of initial transfusion	"When considering the third 20 mL/kg bolus, the use of <i>PRBCs</i> (10 mL/kg) should be considered."	" <i>Early resuscitation with blood (products)</i> must be considered in patients with class 3–4 hemorrhage. Early administration of blood products at a low ratio of PRBCs to FFP/PLTs can prevent the development of coagulopathy and thrombocytopenia."

Changes in description is written in italic style.

BP: blood pressure, FFP: fresh frozen plasma, PLT: platelet, PRBC: packed red blood cell.

excessive fluids–induced dislodgement of clots, can benefit more from judicious fluid therapy²⁰. Thus, permissive hypotension should be used more rigorously to children with penetrating injury.

3. Early balanced transfusion

1) Concept

Early balanced transfusion means an empirical transfusion with sufficient amount and balance, mimicking whole blood. Besides TBI, injury can lead to death via hemorrhagic shock and ACOT that can be prevented with sufficient amount and balance of transfusion, respectively. This practice should be performed to children with severe traumatic hemorrhage, prior to recognition of the results of conventional coagulation tests (e.g., prothrombin time).

As a specific method of the early balanced transfusion, MTP denotes a pre-defined multidisciplinary transfusion protocol with the sufficient amount (any blood product ≥ 40 mL/kg/24 hour) and balance (ideally, packed red blood cell [PRBC]: fresh frozen plasma [FFP]:platelet [PLT] = 1:1:1) to provide an efficient DCR¹². The definition of P–MTP is relatively arbitrary compared to MTP in adults (PRBCs ≥ 10 U/24 hour). A widely accepted recent definition of P–MTP is any blood product ≥ 40 mL/kg/24 hour that was driven from a study on children who visited the U.S. military hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan²². Unlike permissive hypotension, children with severe TBI can benefit from MTP²³. This feature may be due to the association between severe TBI and ACOT²⁴, and the need for large volume transfusion to minimize secondary brain injury²³.

2) Ideal whole blood and fatal ACOT

Children with severe traumatic hemorrhage may need MTP involving FFP infusion that mimics ideal whole blood to minimize fatal ACOT.

Whole blood has been used since World War I because it is readily available in combat settings, and includes all blood components required for

oxygen delivery and hemostasis²⁵. At war in Iraq and Afghanistan, warm and fresh whole blood transfusion shows survival benefit in adults with severe hemorrhage²⁶. In children younger than 2 years, fresh whole blood may reduce post-open heart surgery hemorrhage²⁷. However, such strengths of whole blood are offset by the short storage period of 21 days, leading to frequent use of fractionated blood products²⁵.

ACOT, also known as trauma-induced coagulopathy, is a collective term encompassing a wide range of systemic host defense dysregulation syndromes, manifesting various defects in hemostatic process²⁸. This entity is aggravated by hypothermia, acidosis, dilution of coagulation factors, and fibrinolysis²⁹. ACOT occurs in up to 25% at presentation, and increases mortality 4-fold²⁸. A recent rat study using thromboelastography shows that induced hemorrhage was associated with significant increases in the time intervals to thrombin generation, without changes in the other time intervals to clot formation, fibrin cross-link, PLT aggregation, and fibrinolysis³⁰. This rat study suggests the impaired thrombin generation as the main pathophysiology of ACOT, and may provide the rationale for FFP infusion in severe hemorrhage.

3) Evidence for P-MTP

In adults, MTP has proven efficacy for survival and hemostasis that were originally suggested by 2 randomized controlled trials^{31,32}. Afterwards, many additional studies have supported the efficacy of MTP in adults³³⁻³⁶. However, it remains unknown on the activating trigger and ratio of blood products.

In contrast, we have only insufficient evidence on efficacy of P-MTP although many authors had tried to prove it (Table 3)^{17,37-44}. The lack of proven survival benefit might be associated with low achievement rates of a 1:1 FFP:PRBC ratio (25%–37%)^{17,39,43,44} and high TBI rates (30%–71%)^{17,37,39-41,43,44} (Table 3). Also, it might stem from the inherent difficulties of study on critically injured children, such as the low incidence of events and ethical problems in obtaining informed consent. With the insufficient

evidence, P-MTPs are performed largely based on extrapolation from adult studies as manifested by the higher median age of children receiving higher FFP:PRBC ratio (9–11 [$\geq 1:2$] vs. 4–7 years [$< 1:2$])^{42,43}.

Recent literature about P-MTP has added evidence on increasing use of FFP, and its efficacy for hemostasis and survival (Table 3). Implementation of P-MTP is associated with a decrease in use of PRBC and an increase in use of FFP and PLT^{40,42}. A single center study reported the absence of hemorrhagic deaths in 105 children undergoing P-MTP (mortality rate, 18.1%; all by TBI)³⁹. A single center pre-post study on the implementation of P-MTP shows that all hemorrhagic deaths occurred in the pre-MTP group (mortality rate, 21.7%), indicating an improved hemostasis with MTP⁴⁰. The same authors reported a survival benefit in 38 children receiving MTP with the relatively high median FFP:PRBC ratio of 0.9⁴¹. In 2019, survival benefit of P-MTP was shown in the following 2 multicenter studies^{43,44}. A study performed in 70 trauma centers (n = 465) shows that FFP:PRBC ratio $\geq 1:1$ had a survival benefit (log rank, P = 0.02)⁴³. According to the other study performed in 5 pediatric trauma centers (n = 110), the children receiving a 1:1 FFP:PRBC ratio had a lower mortality rate compared to those receiving a 1:2–3 FFP:PRBC ratio (15% vs. 29%–39%, P = 0.025)⁴⁴. The latter study also shows that odds of mortality increased by 3.08 (95% confidence interval, 1.10–8.57) with each additional unit of PRBC deviation from a 1:1 FFP:PRBC ratio⁴⁴.

4) Caveats for pediatric application

P-MTP is needed by only a portion of children with severe hemorrhage. Most injured children have relatively minor injury mechanisms (e.g., a minor fall) and more robust compensations against hypovolemic shock. Median frequency of activation was 6 times per year (interquartile range, 3–10) even in North American trauma centers running MTPs⁴. MTP has its own complications, such as hypothermia and coagulopathy⁴⁵. In critically ill children, unnecessary

Table 3. Literature review regarding pediatric MTP in severe injury^(7,37-44)

Study	Study design and setting	TBI, %	Overall mortality, %	Survival benefit	Definition*	MTP	FFP:PRBC ratio
Hendrickson et al. ⁽³⁷⁾	PRO, n = 102 (pre-MTP [TF < 24 h, n = 49, 17 MTPs] vs. post-MTP [n = 53, 26 MTPs]), mean age 6.2 y, 1 level 2 PTC, 09-10	66.7	30.4	No	TF ≥ 70 mL/kg	Median 1:1.8	
Chidester et al. ⁽³⁸⁾	PRO, n = 55 (8 were non-injured; MTP [n = 22] vs. non-MTP [n = 33]), mean age 9.6 y, 1 level 1 PTC, 09-11	NA	45	No	≥ 1 × BV or ≥ 0.5 × BV/12 h	Mean 1:2.3	
Nosanov et al. ⁽³⁹⁾	RET, n = 105 (MTP), age ≤ 18 y, 1 level 1 TC, 03-10	35-38	18.1 [†]	No	TF ≥ 0.5 × BV	< 1:2, 16%; 1:1-2, 47%; ≥ 1:1, 37%	
Edward et al. ⁽⁷⁾	RET, n = 907 ("high-vol [≥ 40 mL/kg/dl]" TF [n = 224, 77 MTPs]), age ≤ 14 y, U.S. military hospitals in Iraq/Afghanistan, 02-12	30	7	No [†]	PRBC or whole blood ≥ 70 mL/kg	≥ 1:1.25 [‡]	
Hwu et al. ⁽⁴⁰⁾	RET, n = 235 (pre-MTP [n = 120, 26 MTPs] vs. post-MTP [n = 115, 17 MTPs]), < 18 y, 1 level 1 PTC, 05-14	51.5	21.7	No	PRBC ≥ 40 mL/kg or TF ≥ 80 mL/kg	Mean 0.6	
Hwu et al. ⁽⁴¹⁾	RET, n = 38 (MTP), < 18 y, 1 level 1 PTC, 06-12	71.1	52.6	Yes	PRBC ≥ 40 mL/kg or TF ≥ 80 mL/kg	Median 0.9	
Cannon et al. ⁽⁴²⁾	RET, n = 364 (MTP or death + TF < 24 h), < 15 y, U.S. military hospitals in Iraq/Afghanistan, 01-13	NA**	18.1	No	TF ≥ 40 mL/kg	≥ 1:2, 82%	
Cunningham et al. ⁽⁴³⁾	RET, n = 465 (MTP), age ≤ 18 y, approximately 70 level 1-2 TCs, 15-16	64	38	Yes	TF ≥ 40 mL/kg	< 1:2, 35%; 1:1-2, 38%; ≥ 1:1, 27%	
Noland et al. ⁽⁴⁴⁾	RET, n = 110 (MTP or PRBC > 20 mL/kg [or > 2 U]), age ≤ 18 y, 5 level 1 PTCs, 07-13	NA**	27	Yes ^{††}	"Institutional" or PRBC > 20 mL/kg	1:1, 36%; 1:2, 32%; 1:3, 33%	

* Designated as volume per 24 hours unless otherwise specified.

[†] All mortalities were caused by TBI.

^{††} An FFP:PRBC ratio > 0.8 was associated with a higher mortality (18% vs 8%; P < 0.001).

[‡] Unknown percentage.

^{||} All hemorrhagic deaths occurred in the pre-MTP group.

^{|||} Only if BIG score ≥ 24 or surgery performed ≤ 6 hours.

** Excluding isolated TBI.

^{†††} Odds of mortality increased by 3.08 (95% confidence interval, 1.10-8.57) with each additional unit of PRBC deviating from a 1:1 ratio.

MTP: massive transfusion protocol, TBI: traumatic brain injury, FFP: fresh frozen plasma, PRBC: packed red blood cell, PRO: prospective, TF: transfusion, PTC: pediatric trauma center, BV: blood volume, RET: retrospective, TC: trauma center.

PRBC transfusion can increase mortality⁴⁶). Hence, controlled or minor hemorrhage is a contraindication for P-MTP.

5) Evidence summary and game plan

As aforementioned, MTP in adults has a survival benefit without known trigger and ratio of blood products. Despite the insufficient evidence in children, in appropriate candidates, P-MTP should be performed considering its theoretical benefit, proven efficacy in adults, and recent pediatric evidence.

In the U.S. and Canada, P-MTPs are usually activated at the discretion of clinicians⁴¹. The triggers vary from 20–40 mL/kg/2 hour to 80 mL/kg/24 hour of anticipated volume of blood products⁴¹. In our opinion, a practical trigger and a target ratio of P-MTP may be an anticipated volume of blood products of 20–40 mL/kg in the first 2 hours and a 1:1–2 FFP:PRBC ratio, respectively. This speculation needs more evidence.

4. Application of DCR to the U.S. and Korean children

To investigate the use of DCR in reality, MTP was used as a surrogate for DCR given the more quantitative nature.

As of 2016, 92% of the U.S. and Canadian trauma centers are running P-MTPs⁴¹. Among these centers, 74% and 52% reported an FFP:PRBC ratio $\geq 1:2$ and a PLT:PRBC ratio ≥ 1 (apheresis single-donor) or 5 (pooled random-donor):10, respectively. This survey suggests widespread use of P-MTP in North America with a wide variation in details about the use of blood products. This trend toward DCR in children is mentioned in the tenth edition of the Advanced Trauma Life Support (Table 2)^{18,19}.

In 2017, a Korean nationwide survey on MTP was performed at 48 hospitals of which the annual blood product use was 20,000 units or higher⁴⁷. This survey shows that 15 hospitals (31.3%) had institutional MTPs (mostly, since 2012) without a mention of P-MTP, and of these, only 6 (12.5%) were actually

running the protocols. In addition, P-MTP is not described in a manual for MTP published by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention⁴⁸. Despite the recent suggestion of need for P-MTP⁴⁹, to our best knowledge, no such protocol has been established in Korea so far. Of note, Korean children need another caveat for pediatric application of DCR. Penetrating injury is less frequent in Korean children than in the U.S. children (2%⁵⁰ vs. 5%⁵¹), suggesting a smaller target of permissive hypotension in the former.

A Korean single center study on application of DCR to critically injured patients including children (age range, 13–87 years) shows that the patients with an FFP:PRBC ratio $\geq 1:2$ had a higher 24-hour survival (72% vs. 97%, $P < 0.001$) compared to the counterpart without a difference in injury severity⁵². This study also shows that the former group received significantly less PRBC and crystalloids and more FFP and PLT in the first 24 hours.

Conclusion

Children with severe traumatic hemorrhage need DCR that is composed of judicious fluid therapy and early balanced transfusion with sufficient amount and balance to minimize the lethal triad. However, permissive hypotension should be applied cautiously to children with severe TBI. Survival benefit of MTP has been proven in adults. Despite the insufficient evidence in children, DCR, particularly P-MTP, should be performed in appropriate candidates considering its theoretical benefit, proven efficacy in adults, and recent pediatric evidence.

Conflicts of interest

No potential conflicts of interest relevant to this article were reported.

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